

Vol 6

Elder, the snow was about twelve feet deep, and they were obliged to return. Heber found the Lize mare and your two little mules on the Weber and brought them home. They were so poor that they almost staggered. The Carr boys have lost most of their cattle, as they were in Cache Valley. Daddy Stump went there also, and most of his died. Brother Shurtliff had some ninety cows of Brother Brigham's and he says that they are all dead except ten or a dozen. Brother Hooper and Williams told me that they had lost about seven hundred head. Mr. Kerr, a Gentile, told me that he had six or seven hundred head, and they were all dead. Messrs. Gilbert and Gerrish had about as many, and they are all dead; as also are Livingston and Bell's, and, from the accounts from all the brethren north of this place, we learn that they have lost all of their stock, and this destruction seems to be more or less throughout the Territory, and many cattle and horses are dying in the city. There may be more or less of these cattle living, but they are scattered from Malad to this place. There are some forty head of cattle on the Island, probably living."

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"Brother Smoot has made a selection of one hundred men, principally young men, to go back with ox teams to fetch on the Church goods that lie in Missouri and St. Louis, if there are cattle enough left alive to do so. Your brother David, Brigham Young, Jr., and George Grant's son, George, will go with them.

"The times are said to be more close this season than they have ever been in the valleys; and this is universal through all the settlements. There are not more than one-half of the people that have bread, and they have not more than one-half or one-quarter of a pound a day to a person. A great portion of the people are digging roots, and hundreds and thousands, their teams being dead, are under the necessity of spading their ground to put in their grain. There is a pretty universal break with our merchants, as there is no one to buy their goods, and their stock is mostly dead. My family, with yours, have only one-half a pound of breadstuff to a person, a day. We have vegetables and a little meat. We are doing first-rate, and have no cause but to be very thankful; still I feed hundreds of others, a little, or they must suffer. Brother Brigham, myself and others have been crying unto this people for more than three years, to lay up their grain for a time when they would have much need of it.

"At our April conference there were about three hundred missionaries selected for different missions; some thirty or forty to go to Europe and the United States, and about one hundred to Carson Valley, to try to sustain that place; a large company to Green River, another to Las Vegas and another to Salmon River. All business is given up for the present on public works. Not much of any building is going in the city, as all mechanics are advised to go to tilling the earth."

Manti, Sanpete Co., January 16th, 1877. 1856

S. F. Kimball, Salt Lake City.

Dear Brother:—In answer to your enquiries in relation to the flour I distributed for your father, I will say:

That during the early part of the year 1856, in what is known as the "time of famine," when a great many persons who in other respects were esteemed well-to-do, were under the necessity of eating thistle roots, sego roots and other wild plants for the sustenance of themselves and families, owing to the extreme scarcity of breadstuff, there being none in the market at any price; at this critical juncture President Heber C. Kimball, who had by wise economy and prescient forethought, garnered a quantity of surplus grain, requested my assistance to distribute flour to families of the Saints in small quantities adapted to their number and necessity, charging them \$6.00 per 100 lbs., then the Standard Tithing Office price. Although there was no flour in the market still some individuals were selling at \$25 to \$30 per 100 lbs. To the best of my recollection some 20,000 to 30,000 lbs. of flour were thus distributed in various amounts, varying from five to fifty lbs., according to the size of the family.

This act of generosity and fatherly care on the part of the late Heber C. Kimball was only in keeping with his general character as a man of sterling integrity and a faithful steward before the Lord to his fellow men, and thus his memory is justly enshrined in the hearts of the Saints, who fondly cherish the hope to enjoy his society after a glorious resurrection.

Yours very truly,

J. B. Maiben.

### IRRIGATION

Careful preparation was made during the Spring of '56 for the proper utilization of mountain streams in order that the planted crops might have an adequate water supply to bring on a full harvest. Bishops in all Mormon communities were advised to take precautionary measures to prevent waste and to continue to build ditches and canals. "Every Saint should labor for the interest of the community—it is the Lord who gives the increase."

The following remarks were made by Brigham Young in the Bowery in Great Salt Lake City, June 8, 1856:

"In regard to irrigation, I will venture to say that one-half of the water is wasted; instead of being applied where and when it is needed, it runs here and there, and perhaps one-half reaches the drooping plants. If people would take a little more time and pains in preparing ditches, gates, and embankments for economically conducting water where it is most needed, it would be a very great advantage to them.



"When water is brought to the termination of the canal, which we can accomplish in a few days, I presume that the reservoirs on the line of work and those portions which are excavated in full will contain water enough to allow the people to irrigate when necessary, and thus do away with the practice of watering only two hours a week on a city lot. And that is not all, for by the time the water is fairly on a lot, it is taken by the next person whose right it is to use it. And lots which have had thousands of dollars expended on them, and which would yield more than a thousand dollars worth of fruit and vegetables, could they be properly irrigated, are only allowed a small stream of water for two hours once a week, and at the same time an adjoining lot planted with corn, the hills six feet apart and one stalk in a hill, comparatively speaking, the balance of the ground being covered with weeds is allotted the same time and amount of water as the one on which the fruit trees and other choice vegetation are worth thousands of dollars.

"There ought to be a reformation in the distribution of the water. The man who will not raise five dollars' worth of produce on his lot, has the same water privilege as the man who could raise a thousand dollars' worth. For instance, Brother Staines gets the water for two hours in a week, and what are his fruit trees worth? He could make his thousand dollars a year from them, if he were disposed to sell the fruit instead of giving it away, could he have a fair portion of water. I have a lot just below him well cultivated in fruit trees, a nursery, and choice vegetables, I also can only have the water on my lot for two hours in a week; when lots nearby, with but little on them except weeds, get the same water privilege, and that too in the day time, while we have to use it in the night. Water masters ought to look to this matter, until they have arranged a more just distribution . . .

"Shall we stop making canals, when the one now in progress is finished? No, for as soon as that is completed from Big Cottonwood to this city, we expect to make a canal on the west side of Jordan, and take its water along the east base of the west mountains, as there is more farming land on the west side of that river than on the east. When that work is accomplished we shall continue our exertions, until the Provo River runs to this city. We intend to bring it around the point of the mountain to Little Cottonwood, from that to Big Cottonwood, and lead its waters upon all the land from Provo Canyon to this city, for there is more water runs in that stream alone than would be needed for that purpose.

"If we had the time we should build several reservoirs to save the waters of City Creek, each one to contain enough for once irrigating one-third of the city. If we had such reservoirs the whole of this city might be irrigated with water that now runs to waste. Even then we do not intend to cease our improvements, for we expect that part of the Weber will be brought to the Hot Springs, there to meet the

waters from the South and empty into Jordan. Then we contemplate that Bear River will be taken out at the gates to irrigate a rich and extensive region on its left bank, and also upon the other side to meet the waters of the Malad. We know not the end of our public labors and enterprises in the Territory, and we can design performing them as fast as we can." . . .—*Journal of Discourses*. Vol. III

#### GLEANNING—"THE POOR MUST BE FED"

Realizing the need of breadstuffs in many of the homes of the Latter-day Saints, President Young and his associates published the following notice:

"Wheat harvest is close at hand, breadstuff is still scarce and the owners of fields of grain will probably have a surplus. They generally have much labor to perform, and consequently are apt to harvest in more or less of a wasteful manner. For these reasons wisdom obviously dictates the policy of freely permitting gleaners to follow the rakers and binders, thus opening an effectual way in which the poor will be able to materially contribute to their own support, and saving what otherwise will be lost or go towards further encouraging a slovenly husbandry by tilling soil with self sown crops.

"The Bishops, in each Ward throughout the Territory, are requested to see to it that every grain raiser permits the poor to glean his fields, unless he prefers to glean them himself immediately after the grain is bound; and if any one will not seasonably and properly glean his fields, nor permit the poor to do so, let his Bishop deal with him according to the law of Zion.

Brigham Young  
Heber C. Kimball  
Jedediah M. Grant."

#### THE HARVEST BEGINS

*Green Peas*—We tender our thanks to Brother and Sister Longstroth for their liberal and very acceptable present of green peas on the 1st inst., the first we have seen upon a table this season. Being very fond of gardening and good gardens, and having some pride in their successful cultivation, we candidly admit that we were a little chagrined that our own did not afford us a supply; but the edge of our chagrin was entirely removed by the palatableness of the gift, and by the tangible evidence that many others are using commendable skill and industry in the early and careful cultivation of gardens. In a few days peas will be very plentiful, with all who have used proper exertions in tilling their grounds.—June 4, 1856.

*Saving Seed Peas*—As peas are now filling their pods, and provisions still rather scarce, many will be tempted to pluck them indiscriminately. But all who desire to improve upon the size and the period of